

MONTANA WOLF PROGRAM - WEEKLY REPORT

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Ken McDonald, Wildlife Bureau Chief
SUBJECT: Wolf Program Activities and Related Information
WEEK OF: June 25 – July 1, 2011

Contributors to the Montana Wolf Weekly are Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), Universities, USDA Wildlife Services (WS), the National Park Service (NPS; Glacier NP; Yellowstone National Park will be reported in the Wyoming Wolf Weekly), US Forest Service, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and the Blackfeet Nation.

Highlighted activities relate to: monitoring, wolf-livestock interactions, outreach and education, research, law enforcement, and other miscellaneous topics of public interest. The Weekly Report will be available each Monday, covering the previous week. It and other wolf program information (including the 2009 annual report) can be found on the FWP website.

WOLF MONITORING ACTIVITIES:

Flights: Nothing to report

6/25: Bradley reported that Smucker and Smith trapped and collared a yearling male wolf in the Arrastra Creek pack in the Blackfoot Valley. Trapping is ongoing to try to get a 2nd collar in the pack. At least 5 pups have been verified in this pack.

Laudon reported that Evans, Panning, and Werhahn surveyed for wolves in the Trego, Fortine, and Eureka areas. Wyoma area had sign of 1-2 adults (reproduction unknown) and suspect no reproduction. Lydia was documented to have at least 2 adults and possible reproduction. Ksanka has at least 3 adults and 1 pup. No real sign exists in an area between Eureka and Lydia pack territory, despite a hunter reporting having seen 100 wolves in the lower Pinkham Creek area. Survey trail cameras (for numbers and reproduction) were collected in the Lazy Creek, Tallulah, Murphy Lake, Kootenai South, Ashley, and Lydia areas. Survey trail cameras were deployed in the Ksanka, Wyoma area, and Lydia.

7/1: Laudon and Whitehead captured a pup in the Kintla Pack.

7/2: Laudon and Whitehead recaptured NW327F who shed (preprogrammed) her GPS store on board collar on 5/10/10. She was not a breeder in 2008 when originally captured but is a current breeder.

7/2: Laudon and Whitehead discovered what may be a new and third pack in the North Fork and successfully captured and collared the breeding female of this pack. Survey trail cameras were used in the Kintla and "new" pack areas.

WOLF-LIVESTOCK ACTIVITIES:

6/25: A yearling male was trapped and killed as part of ongoing control work in and around the ranch where a horse was killed south of Darby on 5/27.

6/26: A ranch manager on private land near Wisdom shot a wolf that was seen with two others chasing cattle.

6/27: WS investigated a report of two horses being injured by wolves on private land near Wisdom. The incident was not confirmed, wolves were not responsible for the injuries to the horses.

6/30: Smucker pulled traps in the Blackfoot and Bradley pulled traps in the Lower Clark Fork

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION:

6/27: Nelson gave an update on wolf activity and management at the Livingston Rod and Gun Club board meeting to an audience of about 10 people.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES: Nothing to report

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND RELATED ACTIVITIES: Nothing to report.

OTHER UPDATES:

Geri Werhahn has begun work as a volunteer for the wolf program in Region 1.
Welcome Geri!

To learn more about Montana's wolf population, the Montana program and to help FWP monitor wolves by reporting wolf sign, visit FWP online. Use the following shortcut link and be sure to update your bookmarks: <http://fwp.mt.gov/wolf>

To anonymously report a dead or injured wolf or suspected illegal activity, call: 1-800-TIP-MONT or 1-800-847-6668.

To request an investigation of injured or dead livestock, call USDA Wildlife Services directly in western Montana / Helena area at 406-458-0106 or in eastern Montana at the statewide office at 406-657-6464. Or, call your nearest FWP representative to have your call referred to Wildlife Services.

If you have a confirmed or probable livestock death loss due to wolves, USDA Wildlife Services will supply you with a copy of the Loss Reimbursement Application form. For more information, see <http://liv.mt.gov/liv/LM/index.asp> Or, contact the Livestock Loss Reduction and Mitigation Program Coordinator, George Edwards at the Montana Department of Livestock at 406-444-5609.